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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1910.

Two Weeks Before Election.

Never in all American history have political conditions been so strangely and abnormally mixed as they are to-day, a fortnight before the general election.

Each succeeding development of the campaign—apathetic, save in spots—has only tended to make confusion worse confounded. The party in power may possibly escape disaster at the polls—anything is possible in American politics, especially in this unprecedented era of independent thinking—but if party disaster be now averted it will be a marvelous denouement, impossible of rational explanation.

Certainly the party in power, destructively warring upon and discrediting itself all these months past and up to the very eve of the election, has steadily, persistently, and, it even seems, deliberately invited defeat. And we do not mind expressing the opinion, without assuming the role of a prophet, that it will get just what is coming to it.

The achievements of the administration, unequalled in any similar time in the past, have been allowed to go for naught, largely in the factional struggles, the enunciation of un-Republican doctrines, the maneuvering for position, and the raising of disturbing questions incident to 1912. The campaign on the Republican side is full of inconsistencies. There has been little in it from the start to inspire the country's confidence.

As to how large an opposition majority will be created in the House, the number of Republican seats that will be lost in the Senate, and how many Democratic governors will be chosen as the result of internecine Republican strife, we do not venture to guess. That the size of the upheaval will suffice, however, to bring the warring party to its senses and put it upon its better behavior, we entertain not the shadow of a doubt.

That the chastisement of its adversary will teach the Democratic party wisdom, give it enduring strength, and lead to its complete rehabilitation, we devoutly hope and trust.

This is an epoch-making period in the Nation's affairs, and never before in its constructive progress has it stood in greater need of statesmanship. And never did the rising fortunes of an opposition party offer so rich an opportunity for real service to a perplexed, overrated, and impatient country.

An amateur actor, according to Lew Fields, is a man who acts to please himself, no matter how much the audience suffers.

College Training and Journalism.

The San Francisco Argonaut publishes an editorial on "College Education and Journalism" which is about as rabid an anti-college utterance as we have seen for a long time.

"In recruiting our service," says the Argonaut, speaking of its own experience, "trial has again and again been made of the college-trained youth, but never with any approach to success."

If these remarks applied with equal force to other newspapers and magazines representative of journalism in its higher rank in this country, they would be most significant.

That they do not apply to the greater newspapers and periodicals is easily shown. The New York Sun recruits its men almost entirely from college-trained men. It is neither dull nor badly written. College graduates also hold a number of subordinate positions on the Times and the Tribune, of the same city. Not a few of the Washington correspondents are college trained, and are none the worse newspaper men on that account; and the same is true of the working staff of the Washington press.

Mr. Henry Watterson, in speaking of the newly established schools of journalism in various State universities, says:

"Colleges that set out to teach journalism are plowing a new field. Some of them, no doubt, offer less useful instruction than they will when they have learned more by receiving hard knocks. It is not reasonable to believe that the young man who would be a journalist will be handicapped by the training he receives through the medium of a special course at college."

"Journalism is sometimes charged, and not untruthfully, with receiving into its fold many young men who have had varied but unsuccessful experience in other callings. A varied experience stores the mind with knowledge of men and affairs. Not infrequently both a sense of humor and a sense of proportion are developed by receiving hard knocks. It is the rolling stone gathers no moss, the roving young man gathers a great deal of valuable material for future use in newspaper writing."

Out in Missouri the State University has created a chair of journalism, with an experienced newspaper man in charge of the courses. The students run a daily newspaper which receives a telegraphic press report. During the summer months the students are tried out on the Kansas City and St. Louis news-

papers. Those that show natural aptitude for the work are given positions.

The New Orleans dailies have been recruiting their workers for a long time from Tulane University and other State colleges. There has been no complaint of the character of the work done by these men.

The study of history, economics, languages, literature, political science, and other subjects included in the college course gives a man a broad interest in the endlessly varied topics which a good newspaper presents to its readers. Before attaining any real eminence in his profession, the journalist must acquire, in college or out of college, a real knowledge of facts and affairs which colleges give their students, according to their varying capacities.

As the Courier-Journal puts it, "Knowledge of what to write and what not to write must be gained by conscientious study, that may well be begun in college, but must be continued throughout life."

Break, break, break, on thy cold, gray rocks, oh, sea!

But a little political silence would make us just chortle with glee.

Retirement of Clerks.

Cogent reasons for the betterment of the conditions attending the clerical employees of the government are to be found in the annual report of the Commission General of the Army. That officer, Brig. Gen. Henry G. Sharpe, devotes a liberal portion of his report, otherwise dealing with the purely military aspects of his bureau, to the circumstances attending the clerks of his office. His remarks would apply equally well to, as they are made in behalf of, the clerks of all the bureaus in other executive branches of the government.

General Sharpe points out the difficulty of retaining the best clerks, five of whom resigned from his office this year—two to take advantage of better opportunities in the business world and three going to other departments where more liberal salaries are paid, and where the chance of promotion is greater than in the War Department. This calls attention to the compensation of clerks and the opportunities for advancement. It is urged by Gen. Sharpe that Congress enact what is known as the reclassification bill, which has been reported to the House, and which will go far toward improving a deplorable situation. The salaries paid in the Federal civil service are based on the law of 1883, and the average pay of the clerical force has not changed materially since then, while, as Gen. Sharpe remarks, the work has become more complex and widely ramified and the responsibilities and exactions of the service are greater than ever before.

Another pertinent feature of Gen. Sharpe's remarks on the condition of the clerical force is his eloquent appeal in behalf of a measure providing for the retirement of old and faithful superannuated employees of the government. The comment made by Gen. Sharpe in this connection should be appreciated by every government clerk who has the prospect of an uninterrupted career as such. Gen. Sharpe has provided in a succinct way and in tangible, and what ought to be convincing, form the reasons that justify Congressional action in behalf of a civil service retired list.

The provision would, for instance, attract a better class of employees and induce the qualified clerk to remain; it would automatically eliminate those whose efficiency has been impaired by age or infirmity, and serve to introduce younger and more vigorous men; it would afford an assurance of future maintenance of families at a time when the earning capacity of the individual is reduced by age or disability; it would remove the anxiety and apprehension of discharge for protracted illness, and it would be in the line of the practice adopted by the railroads, corporations, and commercial houses, who find it worth while to recognize and reward long and faithful service by retirement, and who have made that provision as a good business investment.

It would be all this that Gen. Sharpe points out, and more. There would be a contentment of individuals, which in itself is a contribution to clerical efficiency.

Boss Cox may be going to New York to kiss his friend Col. Roosevelt cinch the crooks.

To Abolish the Frank.

Postmaster-General Frank H. Hitchcock, who has declared that he is going to wipe out the annual deficit in postal revenues, and, among other things, hopes to establish 1-cent domestic postage, now proposes to recommend to Congress the abolition of the frank. He does not hope to do away with the franking privilege, but proposes a change in form.

There can be no doubt that the franking privilege has been most seriously abused. It is not too much to say that it has been used to defraud the government out of a great deal of money, and the worst of it is that every one who receives an improperly franked package or letter realizes that the government is being defrauded.

We know it is a matter of common knowledge—that under the present system the frank has been diverted from the purposes for which it was originally designed. We have had Congressmen sending typewriters through the mails under their frank; others have used the frank to send out their laundry, to send Christmas presents to their friends, to say nothing of the tons upon tons of printed speeches—printed free through special privilege at the Government Printing Office, and which, while supposedly quasi-public documents, are, in effect, nothing but campaign material disseminated abroad for the member's private behoof and emolument. All this should be stopped. It is petty dishonesty, unworthy of men elected to legislate for the nation.

It is proposed by Postmaster General Hitchcock to stop the issuing of franks and to issue in lieu thereof free stamps to the members of Congress. This, we believe, is an excellent idea. The stamps should be of a special issue differentiating them from the stamps used by the general public, and the Post-office Department should be required to keep a ledger account with each individual member of Congress and with all government offi-

cials entitled to the free use of the mails for business purposes, showing just how many of these free stamps are requisitioned for and used.

If the matter is brought up in Congress, it is not improbable that some agreement may be reached as to just how much free postage a member of Congress is entitled to each year and stamps to that amount can be issued. Such a plan would certainly cut down enormously the amount of mail matter, packages and pamphlets, and what not that are now being hauled around the country at the expense of the Post-office Department, and which help to make that department so expensive to run.

As it is now, the whole franking privilege is a form of petty graft that should not be tolerated, and if Postmaster General Hitchcock succeeds in eliminating it, he will have done a great thing for the country.

Speaking of paradoxes, it is being freely predicted that certain candidates will be snowed under by a landslide.

If marriage is a failure, some of our actor folk must be in danger of bankruptcy.

What is especially needed at this time is an infallible virus test to tell whether a public man is a tool, a demagogue, or just a common statesman.

An article that is popular in many newspapers just now is entitled "How to run the furnace." Somebody will make a big hit by telling how to let the furnace run the family.

Miss Anita Stewart, the American heiress who married Prince Miguel of Braganza, suddenly finds the title taken away from her. If she is wise, she will put Miguel to work.

Charlie Gaston says: "What I like about women is their fine consistency. I see there was a woman out in Joplin who, when her husband, after battling with a burglar, got him down on the floor, yelled to him, 'Don't cut his throat, John; the blood will spoil the carpet.' There is a careful housewife for ye."

Some people are worried over Champ Clark's idea of admitting everything free. They say that it would be impossible to run the government. Why not let the government walk? It has been running long enough.

This Friedrich Wilhelm was the husband of Sophie Dorothea of Hannover, daughter of King George I of England, and from them the present royal line of Prussia and Imperial line of Germany has descended. But through this same Sophie Dorothea the British reigning house also has a direct connection with Coligny, and as a matter of course the House of Orleans. This has not been known generally.

Hurstmonceux, which Mr. Claude Loecher has bought for the purpose of restoration and as a gift to the British nation, is by far the grandest ruin in Sussex. Its new owner is playing a part in striking contrast with the behavior of a former proprietor. That degenerate son of a noble family was a parson by the name of Hare. He thought so little of the magnificent ruin consigned to his care that he used it as a quarry for his dwelling house. The unpatriotic event happened in 1770.

Had that man not been content with a modest house to live in, he might have destroyed the whole castle. For more than 400 years since its construction by Sir Roger de Flines, of Agincourt fame, the building has had no enemies save time and the above-named parson. An odd circumstance is the building of the castle with bricks at a time when bricks practically were unused, and in a district where good stone easily was to be had.

Among the interesting things at Hurstmonceux are the bakehouse with an oven fourteen feet in diameter and a kitchen twenty-eight feet high, with three immense fireplaces. Then there is the "drummers' tower." From this tower in the eighteenth century the countryside was aware from time to time of the sound of a ghostly drum that filled the souls of innocent and guilty alike with terror. After many years it was revealed that the phantom drum merely was the sound of the drummers in the garrison of the castle.

A futureproof may be concerned about the bridge, but the best man usually worries over the present.

Every time some doctor invents a new cure, some other doctor discovers a new disease.

Whatever may be the outcome of the New York elections, the Outlook is favorable to the Republicans.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A NEGLECTED FIELD.
The wealthy ladies starve and lace
And thin their blood;
And some are blue about the face
For want of food.The wealthy ladies rush about,
Go late to bed,
The winter finds them all worn out
And nearly dead.We common people really shirk
Our duties, which
Would seem to point to welfare work
Among the rich.Overdid it at Plunkville?
"There wasn't enough business for the merchants we had."

"We padded our census returns, and four new merchants have moved in."

Better Be Cautious.
"I think I'll get my wife a golf outfit for her birthday."

"If you do, you'll have to send her South for the winter."

In Holland.
"What is this? A windmill run by steam, eh? What's the idea?"

"We have to have power," explained the villager. "All the tourists insist on seeing the windmill in motion."

The Apprehensive Man.
Nothing happens; yet he's in
Constant fright,
He has always fearful been
Lest it might.His One Need.
"Then you think the Indian doesn't need civilization?"

"Certainly not. With its blankets and beadwork, his tepee looks like the regulation cozy corner now. All the Indian needs is a chafing dish."

No Duplicates.
"Everybody gave me exactly what I wanted."

"Then why this discontent?"

"Oh, I'd like to have the fun of exchanging a few things."

A Fixture.
"I guess the ship is here to stay."

"Why so?"

"I see they have begun to quarrel as regards the advantages of the respective types."

BAND ATTENDED,
BUT DID NOT PLAY

The West Point cadets' unique method of punishing a superior by maintaining silence in his presence while at dinner is a thing which is impossible in the British army, because silence is the one thing enjoined on the rank and file when an officer is present. But an incident closely akin to it occurred at Gibraltar in the eighteenth century.

The governor had made himself somewhat obnoxious to a certain regiment—it is said the Nineteenth Foot. He ordered the regimental band to attend a ball at his residence, but the colonel demurred. The general insisted, hinting at his military powers over the musicians. The colonel thereupon sent the men, but not a single instrument! In those days the officers of each regiment practically maintained their music band themselves, so that the governor had no option but to submit to the rebuff of silence.

On the other hand it was a refusal to be active, not in sound but in movement, that brought disaster to the old Seventy-seventh Regiment in 1783. When ordered to India under Col. Charles Gordon, they resolutely refused to move, declaring in a barrack room ditty:

If we were to fight with France or Spain,
With pleasure we would cross the Main;
But for that that way to India—
Our Highland blood-brothers it.

The matter reached Parliament, and the regiment was disbanded.

In presenting the city of Kiel recently with a statue of Coligny, the French admiral, who was slain on the night of the massacre of St. Bartholomew at Paris, Emperor William of Germany said that he did so because he was "indirectly" descended from that famous Huguenot.

The descent, however, is direct enough. It dates from the eldest daughter of the famous admiral, Louise de Coligny, who, having lost her first husband in that terrible night, married William the Silent of the Netherlands, who likewise was descended almost in her very veins.

The grandson of that union was Friedrich Wilhelm, the last elector of Brandenburg, who placed the royal Prussian crown upon his head as first King of Prussia, being crowned at Königsberg in 1701 in the very palace where recently one of his successors, Emperor William, moved by the proud recollections kindled by the associations awakened when dining in that castle, delivered his recent divine rite.

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POLITICAL COMMENT.

Guesstwork as to November.
From the Philadelphia Record.

Anybody can make a guess as to the political complexion of the Sixty-second Congress. As the day of choice approaches the guesstwork gets very busy. Those who prophesy merely in the direction of their desire, without a study of probabilities, may be dismissed from serious consideration. Those who try to be impartial may be unconsciously influenced by their inclinations or sympathies, and thus put forth a warped judgment. Perhaps the best guesstwork are the gamblers who want to stake their money on the result of the voting. Yet they are often woefully deceived. The one thing upon which the majority of the forecasters are agreed is the great degree of existent political unrest and dissatisfaction, especially in the ranks of the party in present control of the government.

Unparliamentary Language.
From the Houston Post.

Still, it is not a pleasing spectacle, by any means, to hold a Cornell professor standing upon a public platform and denouncing a former President as an unmitigated liar. It is harsh and uncouth, and in a way unjustifiable. There is a more parliamentary way to challenge the veracity of men who are careless of facts. Moreover, the colonel had not made any personal charges against the Cornell professor. The professor was contradicting statements made by the colonel with reference to public matters. We hope it will not become the custom to call the colonel a liar every time he makes an assertion that lacks that degree of exactness which should always characterize the observations of one who loves truth.

Will the Colonel Swear Off?
From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

If the colonel should come out now and swear that he will not be a candidate for President in 1912, as some of his gang seem to think he will, very few people would believe him. He would probably take such an oath as that suggested in the interest of the so-called Republican ticket in New York, under duress, and afterward claim that it was done for a righteous purpose and with a mental reservation. Besides, what is one little swear, more or less, when the cause is in peril?

What Gov. Stubbs Said.
From the Kansas City Star.

The Democratic orators and newspapers are quoting Gov. Stubbs as saying that "a dishonest Republican is almost as bad as a Democrat." In the printed copy of the Stubbs speech, given out before it was delivered, he found the statement which the Democrats are misquoting: "A dishonest Republican is as bad as a dishonest Democrat." Don't the Democrats agree with that statement of the case?

Untroubled Over Outcome.
From the Springfield Republican.

Mr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, has nearly a full term of six years before him in the United States Senate, and Mr. Burnham's term does not expire until 1913. They are thus not immediately troubled by Mr. Mellen's promise to take the Boston and Maine Railroad out from under the existing placements of politics in that State.

Mild in Comparison.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Within a few days the colonel has publicly been called "a liar," a "dishonest man" and an "absurd egotist." Meanwhile he is reported to have done nothing more along these lines than to term a certain judge "jackass and crook." The colonel is getting behind in the game.

What Is a Standpatter?
From the Kansas City Journal.

A "standpatter" doesn't mean stand still. A "standpatter" is one who sticks to his position and does not change his position in drawing cards to displace any of those in it.

When Lodge Is Progressive.
From the New York Mail.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge would be a very useful statesman if he was as progressive in the Senate as he is in Massachusetts just before the election.

Bad for the Candy Business.
From the New York Sun.

This feminine case for being slender has knocked the bottom out of our business, said the man in charge of a downtown branch of a big candy concern.

"Some men who were good for at least \$10 worth of candy each week never come inside the door now, and when I see them trudging past the store with a package of fruit I make up my mind their wives and daughters, or sweethearts, have taken a stand against candy. One man with a wife and four daughters who used to be a splendid customer, told me the other day that he'd as soon come home with a viper as with a five-pound box of candy, although a year ago he used to buy two five-pound boxes each week."

We notice the same difference in small sales to women employed in offices. There's not half the number of calls for half-pound boxes, though our sales of sweet chocolate are always big, as lots of business men who used to be regular customers have taken a regular lunch.

The continual running in of office boys to execute commissions for the stenographers and telephone operators is getting to be a thing of the past, and lemon drops are about the only sweets these business girls will eat. Every mother's daughter seems to be dead set against gaining an ounce of flesh, and until it is fashionable to be plump again I suppose we'll notice this difference in sales.

The Editor's Reason.
From the Kansas City Journal.

A certain Kansas editor always puts the word "beer" when printed in his paper in quotations marks.

"Why do you do that?" a subscriber asked him.

"It is for the same reason," he replied, "that we put quotation marks around the word 'ghost.' We don't believe there are any ghosts."

A Different Proposition.
From the Houston Post.

The colonel is discovering that hunting the dikdik in Africa and the Dix-Dix in New York are entirely different occupations.

A Mystery.
From the Houston Post.

"A Boston widow advertises that she wishes to marry a St. Louis man."

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

"Does she say why?"

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DEMAND FOR HUMAN HAIR.

English Manufacturers Now Weaving Cloth Entirely of It.
From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.